

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SIL-01 LAB-04
AID-05 EB-08 /082 W
-----008679 040030Z /65

R 031348Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6473
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PINT, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: MAY DAY ACTIVITIES

1. MAY 1 DID NOT LIVE UP TO ITS BILLING AS A RUMORED KEY DATE FOR REVOLUTIONARY DEMONSTRATIONS FOR FSLN ATTACKS. PRES SOMOZA SPOKE TO A RALLY IN THE NATIONAL PLAZA OF PROBABLY 10-20,000 PERSONS (60,000 ACCORDING TO GON-ORGAN NOVEDADES), AT WHICH HE REITERATED HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED INITIATIVES FOR FREE TRADE UNIONISM AND GREATER SOCIAL BENEFITS FOR THE POOR, AND DENOUNCED COMMUNISM.

2. THE OPPOSITION SOCIAL CHRISTIAN (STN) AND COMMUNIST (CGT-I)-LED CONFEDERATIONS WERE BANNED FROM HOLDING SIMULTANEOUS MEETINGS AND THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN) WAS TURNED OUT TO ENFORCE THE BAN. THERE WERE A FEW ARRESTS AT THE SITE WHERE THE OTHER RALLY WAS TO TAKE PLACE, INCLUDING DR. RAFAEL CORDOVA RIVAS (THE SUCCESSOR TO PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO AS PRESIDENT OF UDEL). THE POLOFF AND AMB EXPRESSED CONCERN TO THE GON, AND HE WAS RELEASED AFTER 15 HOURS OF DETENTION.

3. ANTI-REGIME DEMONSTRATIONS IN OTHER CITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

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WERE ALSO QUICKLY DISPERSED. SEVERAL REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED OF INSTANCES OF THE GN USING FORCE, SUCH AS CLUBBING, IN ADDITION TO THEIR STANDARD CROWD CONTROL TACTICS OF TEAR GAS AND BULLETS IN THE AIR. THERE IS ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF A PERSON WOUNDED DURING THE CONTRONTATIONS.
SOLAUN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Reason:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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